

MEMO TO THE FILE:

Call with MPCA

Friday July 16, 2021

CALL NOTES:

+ **Birch Lake (69-0003-00):** Received a number of comments related to Bob's Bay and Dunka Bay.

Q: Would MPCA consider subdividing/breaking up the larger Birch Lake segment into smaller segments?

+ For subdividing lakes, MPCA works with MN-DNR. DNR seems to be the party responsible for delineating lakes and subdividing them into sub-lake segments.

- DNR typically will subdivide when there are conditions within the lake which make certain sections of that lake hydrologically different than the rest of the lake. That is usually their first test or question...is there anything unique going on in that embayment/sub-unit of the lake to make it hydrologically different and support the sub-dividing of that segment.
- E.g., Swan Lake and how that lake has been subdivided into various units

Q: If yes, would they break up some of those smaller segments to cover Bob's Bay and/or Dunka Bay?

+ MPCA doesn't think Birch Lake has enough evidence to warrant a subdividing of Bob's Bay and or Dunka Bay.

+ That is not to say that it will never happen, but at this point, MPCA doesn't see it happening for 2020.

+ Yes, there is sulfate data there which is indicative of a contribution of an elevated sulfate tributary (draining near a mining area) but the DNR needs to make the call on subdividing Birch Lake.